

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A telephony system comprising:  
5 a server comprising a receiving mechanism for receiving a telephony destination code representing a telephony destination address, an assigning mechanism for assigning an Internet protocol packet destination address corresponding to said telephony destination address, and a communications mechanism for packetizing and forwarding  
10 payload data to an Internet protocol router.
2. The telephony system according to claim 1, wherein said mechanism for receiving a telephony destination code comprises a mechanism for receiving a  
15 PSTN destination telephone number.
3. The telephony system according to claim 1, wherein said mechanism for receiving a telephony destination code comprises a mechanism for receiving a  
20 PBX destination telephone number.
4. A communications management system for transmitting payload data from an originating standard dial-out telephony communications equipment, said system  
25 comprising:  
an Internet server coupled to receive call initiation requests from said standard dial-out telephony communications equipment, said Internet server comprising an IP protocol interface to an Internet host and a  
30 mechanism for converting a received telephony destination code to an IP address.
5. The communications management system according to claim 4, wherein said payload data comprises voice  
35 data, and said standard dial-out telephony communications equipment comprises an analog telephone.
6. The communications management system according to claim 4, wherein said payload data comprises voice

data, and said standard dial-out telephony communications equipment comprises a digital telephone.

7. The communications management system according  
5 to claim 6, wherein said digital telephone comprises a  
PBX telephone.

8. The communications management system according to claim 4, wherein said Internet server further  
10 comprises a mechanism for determining, from a telephony destination code received by said Internet server from said originating standard dial-out telephony communications equipment, to which of a plurality of other Internet servers said payload data should be  
15 forwarded, said Internet server and each of said other Internet servers being interconnected via said Internet.

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